In the Figures

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 3, 19 and 20. These sheets, which include Figs. 3, 19 and 20, replace the original sheets.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet (3 sheets)
Annotated Sheets (3 sheets)

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated March 26, 2007. In the specification, paragraphs [0036], [0039], [0044], [0045], [0047], [0048] and [0049] have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Applicant has amended Claim 1 and added new Claims 17-33 to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 17-33 are pending in this application.

Claims 2-16 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 17-33 are newly added claims per this amendment.

Regarding the Amendments to the Specification

Applicant has made minor amendments to the specification. In general, Applicant edited the specification to correct grammar, insert missing element numbers, correct typographical errors and to improve clarity. In particular:

In paragraph [0036] an element number 100 is inserted.

In paragraph [0039] a typographical error is corrected by deleting the number 252 and replacing it therewith 352.

In paragraph [0044] the insertion of element numbers and the correction of typographical errors with respect to elements 514, 516, 518, 520, 524 and 525 have been performed.

In paragraph [0045] missing element numbers 550, 555 and 558 have been inserted. Also, a typographical error wherein the word "board" that was prior to the phrase "control engine board 550" in the last sentence of the paragraph has been deleted.

In paragraph [0047] typographical errors were corrected and element numbers were inserted to improve clarity. Also, the following two sentences were inserted:

> "The control engine 550 may communicate via a USB data bus 559 connected to the PSOC 562 in some embodiments. In other embodiments, optional USB circuitry 561, which is connected to the data bus 558, provides a USB connection 563 to the instrument 100."

These two above sentences are supported in the originally filed specification by paragraphs [0022] wherein the paragraph discusses that "the keyboard module could include USB circuitry which can be connected to USB circuitry 156 on the motherboard 150 via a USB link 158."; [0032] wherein the paragraph discusses "the motherboard 150 in the embodiment shown has its own USB support circuitry 156 which provides a USB link…to modules to provide a communications link inside the unit. A link is also passed through the I/O module to provide USB link(s) to external devices."; and [0047] wherein the paragraph discusses that the "combination of the control engine CPU, the CPLD scaler, and the flexibility of the PSOC allow the control engine to convert the control surface boards into USB devices that can [communicate] with the CPU of the instrument." This paragraph [0047] also refers to the control module as a "programmable control module USB control engine board." As such, Applicant respectfully submits that there is ample support in the originally filed application for the two inserted sentences in paragraph [0047] and respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

In paragraphs [0048] and [0049] element numbers were inserted to improve clarity.

The undersigned hereby states that he believes in good faith that the amendments to the specification do not contain new matter.

Regarding the Amendments to the Figures

Applicant has amended Figs. 3, 19 and 20 to correct typographical errors and to insert subject matter that is clearly supported by the originally filed application.

Fig. 3 has been amended to correct two typographical errors. In particular, element number 1 has been deleted and replaced with element number 182 and element 101 has been deleted and replaced with element 180. This is clearly supported in the originally filed specification in paragraph [0032].

Fig. 19 has been amended to include element numbers 524 and 525 to coincide with the element number corrections and insertions in paragraph [0044], which has been amended herein.

Fig. 20 has been amended to include the USB line/connection 559 and an optional USB circuit 561 and related connections between the USB circuit 561 and the data bus 558 and an external USB connection/line 563. These amendments to Fig. 20 are supported in the originally filed specification as discussed above with respect to the newly inserted two sentences in paragraph [0047]. The amendments to Fig. 20 coincide with the newly added language to paragraph [0047] provided herein. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added to any of the figures.

Regarding the Section 103 Rejection

Claims 1-5 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being rendered obvious over *Monte et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,115,705).

Applicant agrees with the Examiner that *Monte et al.* discloses an electronic musical performance instrument that comprises a musical instrument input interface manipulatable by the human operator. Regardless, Applicant respectfully points out that *Monte et al.* does not teach, suggest or motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize both a first modular control module that provides an output via a first control engine wherein the output comprises "a first manipulation representation in an electronic format" along with a second modular control

module that provides an output from its second control engine electronic circuitry "that comprises a second manipulation representation in the electronic format" wherein the first manipulation representation in the second manipulation representation are used by "at least one user selected sound synthesis software packages to generate sound signals."

With respect to Claim 1, as amended, since *Monte et al.* is silent with respect to the incorporation of both a first modular control module and a second modular control module producing a first and second manipulation representation that is received by a motherboard and used by at least one user selected sound synthesis software packages to generate to sound signals, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is not taught, suggested or motivated by *Monte et al.* As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn and submits that Claim 1, as amended, is ready for allowance.

With respect to Claims 2-5 and 8-15, these claims have been canceled without prejudice thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by *Monte et al.* in view of *Sitrick et al.* (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0100965). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Monte et al.* in view of *Otyza* (U.S. Patent No. 5,929,362) and Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Monte et al.* in view of *Gruenbaum*. Since Claims 6, 7 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections have been rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding the New Claims

New Claims 17-24 have been added. These Claims 17-24 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 1 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 17-24 are ready for allowance.

Regarding new Claim 25, this new independent claim recites an electronic sound performance instrument comprising various elements. Such elements include a motherboard, a plurality of control module slots, a first modular control module and a second modular control module. The first and second modular control modules are each adapted to be removably positionable in any of the plurality of control module slots. Applicant respectfully submits that since none of the cited art teaches an electronic sound performance instrument that comprises a motherboard and a plurality of control module slots along with a first modular control module and a second modular control module that are adapted to be removably positionable in any one of the plurality of control module slots, then Claim 25 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 25 is ready for allowance.

Claims 26-33 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 25 and are therefore not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are ready for allowance.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/OPEN-29,267 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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